



Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grants

What does this program do?

The Distance Learning & Telemedicine (DLT) program helps rural communities acquire technologies to connect teachers and medical providers serving rural residents with other teachers, medical professionals and other needed expertise located at distances too far to access otherwise.

Who may apply for this program?

Eligible applicants include most entities that provide education or health care through telecommunications, including:

- Most State and local governmental entities
- Federally-recognized Tribes
- Non-profits
- For-profit businesses
- Consortia of eligible entities

Please refer to the [Bulletin for All DLT Applicants Concerning Cloud Services](#).

What is an eligible area?

Check with a [General Field Representative](#) to determine whether the proposed service area qualifies.

How may funds be used?

Grant funds may be used for:

- Acquisition of eligible capital assets, such as:
 - Audio, video and interactive video equipment;
 - Terminal and data terminal equipment;
 - Computer hardware, network components and software;
 - Inside wiring and similar infrastructure that further DLT services.

- Acquisition of instructional programming that is a capital asset
- Acquisition of technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment

What kinds of funding are available?

Only 100 percent grant funds are available and are awarded through a nationally competitive process. Funding is not currently available for DLT loans or loan/grant combinations.

What are the grant terms?

- Awards can range from \$50,000 to \$500,000
- A minimum 15 percent match is required and cannot be from another federal source.

How do we get started?

- Applications for the grant program are accepted through the national office.
- The window for applications is typically 60 days.

Who can answer questions?

Contact a [General Field Representative](#) that serves your area, call (202) 720-0800 or email dlinfo@wdc.usda.gov.

What governs this program?

- Code of Federal Regulation: [7 CFR 1703, Parts D-G](#)

Why does USDA Rural Development do this?

The Distance Learning & Telemedicine program helps rural residents tap into the enormous potential of modern telecommunications and the Internet for education and health care, two of the keys to economic and community development.

NOTE: Because citations and other information may be subject to change, please always consult the program instructions listed in the section above titled "What Law Governs this Program?" You may also contact [your local office](#) for assistance.

You will find additional forms, resources, and program information at www.rd.usda.gov
